

Government to provide opportunity scholarships for parents, so that they can redeem that scholarship at a school of their choice.

We've got such a program like that here in Washington, DC. It's been a very successful program, and Congress needs to make sure it gets fully funded. If any Congressman doubts the utility of a program, all they've got to do is speak to Wendy Cunningham, whose daughter takes advantage of this special funding for people, that enables her to say, "My school isn't meeting the needs, and therefore, I'd like to make another choice." A parental choice is a very important part of educational excellence. And one way to make sure that that's the case is not only to fully fund the D.C. Opportunity Scholarship but to provide these kinds of scholarships for school systems outside of Washington.

For example, we've just heard from Margaret Dames, who has got a marvelous school program in Bridgeport, Connecticut. And it seems like it makes sense to me for a parent in Bridgeport to be able to have the same kind of opportunity that a parent here in Washington, DC, has. Congress needs to reauthorize the No Child Left Behind Act as well. We want all schools to be excellent. We want every school, public or parochial, to meet expectations and to give our children the skill sets necessary to realize the great promise of the country.

One thing is for certain, if you're interested in educational excellence, you can look at the Catholic schools in the United States of America, because they provide it, and for that, this country is very grateful.

Thank you all for coming, appreciate your time.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:45 p.m. in the Roosevelt Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Patricia Weitzel-O'Neill, superintendent of Catholic schools, Archdiocese of Washington, DC; Ben Ketchum, assistant principal, St. Ann's Academy; and Margaret A. Dames, superintendent of schools and director of the Office for Education, Diocese of Bridgeport, CT.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

April 7

In the morning, at the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX, the President had an intelligence briefing.

In the evening, the President and Mrs. Bush had Easter dinner with family members.

April 8

In the morning, the President and Mrs. Bush traveled to Fort Hood, TX, where they attended an Easter Sunday church service at the 13th Sustainment Command Chapel.

Later in the morning, the President and Mrs. Bush returned to the Bush Ranch.

April 9

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he traveled to Yuma, AZ, where, upon arrival, he met with USA Freedom Corps volunteer Michael Christopher.

Later in the morning, the President participated in a briefing on U.S. Border Patrol use of unmanned aerial vehicles and toured the Mexico-U.S. border.

In the afternoon, the President returned to Washington, DC, arriving in the evening.

April 10

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with President-elect Sidi Mohamed Ould Cheikh Abdallahi of Mauritania. He then had an intelligence briefing. Later, he traveled to Fairfax, VA.

Later in the morning, the President returned to Washington, DC.

The President announced that he has nominated Peter Michael McKinley to be Ambassador to Peru.

The President announced that he has nominated Charles L. Hopkins III to be Assistant Secretary of Veterans Affairs (Operations, Preparedness, Security and Law Enforcement).

The President announced that he has appointed Ronald Radosh as a member of the Public Interest Declassification Board.

The President announced that he has appointed Ira F. Jaffe, Annette M. Sandberg, and Peter W. Tredick (Chair) as members of Presidential Emergency Board No. 241.

April 11

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, in the Oval Office, he met with Senators John E. Sununu of New Hampshire, Lisa Murkowski of Alaska, Sheldon Whitehouse of Rhode Island, and Amy Klobuchar of Minnesota.

The President announced his designation of the following individuals as members of a Presidential delegation to attend the inauguration of Sidi Mohamed Ould Cheikh Abdallahi as President of Mauritania on April 19: John D. Negroponte (head of delegation); Jendayi Elizabeth Frazer; William E. Ward; and Bobby Pittman, Jr.

April 12

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

In the afternoon, in the Oval Office, the President met with Senators John McCain of Arizona and Lindsey Graham of South Carolina to discuss their recent trip to Iraq.

April 13

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

In the afternoon, the President and Mrs. Bush traveled to Camp David, MD.

The White House announced that the President will welcome President Lech Kaczynski of Poland to the White House on July 16.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

The following list does not include promotions of members of the Uniformed Services, nominations to the Service Academies, or nominations of Foreign Service officers.

Submitted April 10

Robert M. Couch,
of Alabama, to be General Counsel of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, vice Keith E. Gottfried, resigned.

Charles Lewis English,
of New York, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Miriam K. Hughes,
of Florida, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador to the Federated States of Micronesia.

Michael J. Kussman,
of Massachusetts, to be Under Secretary for Health of the Department of Veterans Affairs, vice Jonathan Brian Perlin, resigned.

Peter B. McCarthy,
of Wisconsin, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, vice Sandra L. Pack.

Cameron Munter,
of California, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Serbia.

Robert B. Nolan,
of Virginia, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Kingdom of Lesotho.

Michael G. Vickers,
of California, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense, vice Thomas W. O'Connell.

John L. Withers II,
of Maryland, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Albania.